

## HB 276 -- School Protection Officers

Sponsor: Brattin

This bill allows any school district to designate one or more elementary or secondary school teachers or administrators as a school protection officer, whose responsibilities and duties are voluntary and in addition to their normal responsibilities and duties. Any compensation for serving as a school protection officer must be funded by the local school district without using state funds.

The bill authorizes a school protection officer to carry concealed firearms in any school of the district, but he or she must keep the firearm on his or her person while on school property. A person violating these provisions must be removed immediately from the classroom, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor, and is subject to employment termination proceedings within the school district.

A school protection officer may detain any person the officer sees violating or the officer has reasonable grounds to believe has violated, any state law or school policy. Any person detained for violation of a state law must be turned over to a law enforcement officer. Any person detained for violation of a school policy must be turned over to a school administrator. However, no person detained can be held for more than four hours.

The bill specifies the requirements to be designated as a school protection officer, including requesting the designation in writing to the school district superintendent, holding a valid concealed carry endorsement, and completion of a school protection officer training program approved by the Director of the Department of Public Safety. Any school district that designates a teacher or administrator as a school protection officer must notify the director in writing within 30 days.

The bill allows a school district to revoke the designation of a person as a school protection officer for any reason. The district must immediately notify the person in writing and must notify the department in writing within 30 days of the revocation.

The bill requires the department to maintain a listing of all persons designated as a school protection officer and to make the list available to all law enforcement agencies. However, any identifying information collected is not considered public information and is not subject to an information request under the Open Meetings and Records Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law. Any school employee who discloses any information to anyone, other than those authorized to receive it, will be guilty of a class B

misdemeanor and will be subject to employment termination proceedings within the school district.

Currently, a person with a valid concealed carry endorsement cannot carry a concealed firearm in any higher education institution or elementary or secondary school facility without the consent of the governing body or a school official or the district school board. The bill exempts any teacher or administrator of an elementary or secondary school who has been designated by his or her school district as a school protection officer and is carrying a firearm in a school within that district from the requirement of obtaining consent.

The bill requires the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission to establish minimum standards for the training of school protection officers and specifies the minimum training requirements. The commission must also establish minimum standards for school protection officer training instructors, centers, and programs. The director of the commission must develop and maintain a list of approved school protection officer training instructors, centers, and programs, and make the list available to every school district in the state. The bill specifies the information that must be submitted by each person seeking entrance into a school protection officer training center or program. A certificate of school protection officer training program completion may be issued to any applicant by any approved instructor affirming that the person has taken and passed a program that meets all requirements specified in the bill and the person has a valid concealed carry endorsement.